UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

45809       7590       06/23/2008

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
(c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
2555 GRAND BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613

| EXAMINER |
| --- |
| AKINTOLA, OLABODE |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| --- | --- |
| 3691 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2008

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 09/506,767 | 02/18/2000 | Craig A. Link | MFCP.68211 | 8104 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING UNIQUE ACCOUNT NAMES

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| nonprovisional | NO | $1440 | $0 | $0 | $1440 | 09/23/2008 |

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

**HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:**

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** <u>Mail</u>   Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
**Commissioner for Patents**
**P.O. Box 1450**
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

45809        7590        06/23/2008

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

_____ (Depositor's name)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Date)

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/506,767 | 02/18/2000 | Craig A. Link | MFCP.68211 | 8104 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING UNIQUE ACCOUNT NAMES

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| nonprovisional | NO | $1440 | $0 | $0 | $1440 | 09/23/2008 |

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|---|---|---|
| AKINTOLA, OLABODE | 3691 | 705-001000 |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

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3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE                (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
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☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)
☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.    ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| AKINTOLA, OLABODE |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 3691 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2008

**Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**
(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Notice of Allowability** | 09/506,767 | LINK ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | OLABODE AKINTOLA | 3691 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the communication filed on 3/13/2008*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-46*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the

           International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    **Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691

## DETAILED ACTION

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

John S. Golian on 04/21/08.


Claims


1.      (Currently amended) A method of producing a unique modified account name based on a

requested account name that has been determined to already exist, the method comprising

<u>computer-implemented steps of</u>:

~~in a computing environment,~~ receiving a requested account name from a

user;

~~in a computing environment,~~ selecting a preexisting word element from at least one preexisting

list of word elements;

~~in a computing environment,~~ combining the preexisting word element and at least a stem of the

requested account name to produce a modified account name;

~~in a computing environment,~~ comparing the modified account name with a list of existing

account names to determine whether the modified account name is unique; and

~~in a computing environment,~~ if the modified account name is unique, providing the modified account name to the user for acceptance.

16.     (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer- executable instructions <u>which when executed by a computing device performs</u> ~~for~~ a method of producing a unique modified account name based on a requested account name that has been determined to already exist, the method comprising:

selecting a preexisting word element from at least one preexisting list of word elements;

combining the preexisting word element and at least a stem of the requested account name to produce a modified account name;

comparing the modified account name with a list of existing account names to determine whether the modified account name is unique; and

if the modified account name is unique, providing the modified account name to the user for acceptance.

17.     (Currently amended) A method of producing a unique random account name in response to a request by a user, the method comprising <u>computer-implemented steps of</u>:

~~in a computing environment,~~ receiving a requested account name from a user;

~~in a computing environment,~~ selecting a first preexisting word element from a database including at least one preexisting list of word elements;

~~in a computing environment,~~ selecting a second preexisting word element from the database;

~~in a computing environment,~~ combining the first and second preexisting word elements to produce a random account name;

~~in a computing environment,~~ comparing the random account name with a list of existing account names to determine if the random account name is unique; and

~~in a computing environment,~~ if the random account name is unique, providing the random account name to the user for acceptance.

23.    (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer- executable instructions <u>which when executed by a computing device performs</u> ~~for performing~~ a method of producing a unique random account name in response to a request by a user, the method comprising:

selecting a first preexisting word element from a database including at least one preexisting list of word elements;

selecting a second preexisting word element from the database;

combining the first and second preexisting word elements to produce a random account name;

comparing the account name with a list of existing account names to determine if the account name is unique; and

if the account name is unique, providing the account name to the user for acceptance.

24.    (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer- executable

components which when executed by a computing device produces ~~for producing~~ a unique

modified account name based on a requested account name that has been determined to already

exist, comprising:

a user interface component for receiving an account name request

a database component including at least one preexisting list of word elements and a list of

existing account names;

a name generating component for selecting preexisting word elements from the at least one

preexisting list of word elements and combining the preexisting word elements with at least a

stem of the requested account name to produce modified account names, if the requested account

name is not unique when compared to the list of existing account names; and

a search component for comparing the modified account names with a list of existing account

names to determine whether the modified account names are unique and, if the modified account

names are unique, providing the modified account names to the user for acceptance.


30.     (Currently amended) A method of producing a unique account name based on a requested

account name comprising computer-implemented steps of:

~~in a computing environment,~~ receiving a request from a user for an account name;

~~in a computing environment,~~ utilizing multiple solution sets to produce a listing of unique

account names, wherein there is a limit to the number of iterations for which each one of the

multiple solution sets is utilized, and when said limit is reached a different solution set is utilized,

and wherein said list of account names must contain a fixed number of unique account names;

and

~~in a computing environment,~~ presenting the user with said listing of unique names and allowing the user to select one of said listings as an account name;

said multiple solution set comprising: a first solution set to provide at least one unique account name based on the requested account name, by combining the requested account name with a numerical seed;

a second solution set to provide at least one unique account name based on the requested account name, by combining the requested account name with a multi-digit seed if one or more previously utilized solution sets did not provide said fixed number of unique account names within the iteration limit;

a third solution set to provide at least one unique account name based on the requested account name, by pre-pending the requested account name with an adjective from a list of words, if one or more previously utilized solution sets did not provide said fixed number of unique account names within the iteration limit; and

a fourth solution set to provide at least one unique account name, by combining two word elements from two lists of words, if one or more previously utilized solution sets did not provide said fixed number of unique account names within the iteration limit.


31.     (Currently amended) A method of producing a unique random account name in response to a request by a user, the method comprising <u>computer-implemented steps of</u>:

~~in a computing environment,~~ receiving a request to generate a unique random account name from a user;

~~in a computing environment,~~ providing without any input or suggestion of names from the user,

a list of multiple alternate unique account names; and

in a computing environment, providing the user with the ability to select any one of said alternate

unique account names, enter a new string for use as an account name or request an automated

generation of a new list of multiple alternate unique account names.




### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1-46 are allowed.




### *Examiner's Statement of Reason for Allowance*


The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The most relevant reference is the Lichty et al (America on line Tour Guide, 4th edition,

1998) (*"Lichty")* reference.

*Lichty* reference teaches a method and corresponding system receiving a proposed account name

from a user and presenting an available account name to the user for acceptance if the proposed

account name is not available (Pages 428-429, 442-443).


Claims 1, 16 and 24: The *Lichty* reference fails to teach

*Combining the preexisting word element and at least a stem of the requested account name to*

*produce a modified account name.*

Claims 17 and 23:  The *Lichty* reference fails to teach

*Combining the first and second preexisting word elements to produce a random account name.*

Claim 30:  The *Lichty* reference fails to teach

*utilizing multiple solution sets to produce a listing of unique account names, wherein there is a*

*limit to the number of iterations for which each one of the multiple solution sets is utilized, and*

*when said limit is reached a different solution set is utilized, and wherein said list of account*

*names must contain a fixed number of unique account names;*

*said multiple solution set comprising: a first solution set to provide at least one unique account*

*name based on the requested account name, by combining the requested account name with a*

*numerical seed;*

*a second solution set to provide at least one unique account name based on the requested*

*account name, by combining the requested account name with a multi-digit seed if one or more*

*previously utilized solution sets did not provide said fixed number of unique account names*

*within the iteration limit;*

*a third solution set to provide at least one unique account name based on the requested account*

*name, by pre-pending the requested account name with an adjective from a list of words, if one*

*or more previously utilized solution sets did not provide said fixed number of unique account*

*names within the iteration limit; and*

*a fourth solution set to provide at least one unique account name, by combining two word*

*elements from two lists of words, if one or more previously utilized solution sets did not provide*

*said fixed number of unique account names within the iteration*

Claim 31:  The *Lichty* reference fails to teach

*receiving a request to generate a unique random account name from a user;*

*providing without any input or suggestion of names from the user, a list of multiple alternate*

*unique account names; and*

*providing the user with the ability to select any one of said alternate unique account names,*

*enter a new string for use as an account name or request an automated generation of a new list*

*of multiple alternate unique account names.*

Updated searches revealed no references that disclosed the claimed invention, nor were any

further references identified which could be reasonable combined with *Lichty* reference.

For this reason, claims 1, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31 are deemed to be allowable over prior art of

record and claims 2-15, 18-22, 25-29 and 32-46 are allowed by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for

Allowance".

## *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olabode Akintola whose telephone number is 571-272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA

/Hani  M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691